

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6441

S E C R E T CAIRO 9074

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: GAMASY ON EGYPTIAN ARMY REACTION TO
AGREEMENT AND GENEVA TALKS

1. DURING HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH GAMASY THIS EVENING, I ASKED FOR HIS ESTIMATE OF EGYPTIAN REACTION TO RECENT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR THE ARMY. IMMEDIATELY AFTER INITIALING, HE HAD UNDERTAKEN A TRIP TO ALL MAJOR ARMY COMMANDS AND INSTALLATIONS TO BRIEF THE OFFICERS ON THE AGREEMENT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS. HE HAD DONE SO CANDIDLY AND WITHOUT CONCEALING ANYTHING. IN HIS JUDGMENT, THE ARMY WELCOMES THE NEW AGREEMENT AND SUPPORTS IT. IN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY, TOO, IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE AGREEMENT IS WELCOMED, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT HE WAS SURE HE KNEW THERE WERE SOME (UNSPECIFIED) SHARP CRITICS OF IT IN THE COUNTRY.

2. GAMASY THEN SAID HE WISHED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THE CURRENT GENEVA TALKS. HE IS RECEIVING DAILY REPORTS FROM MAGHDOUB, MAINLY BY PHONE. HE AND EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, GENERAL GRIDLY, ARE CLOSELY MONITORING GENEVA TALKS. THE ISRAELIS, GAMASY ASSERTED, ARE BEING CHARACTERISTICALLY DIFFICULT. ALL KINDS OF POINTS HAVE COME UP WHICH INDICATE THAT, UNLIKE THE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH INVOLVED PHASED IMPLEMENTATION, THEY WANT TO STAY THE FULL FIVE MONTHS. THEY CONTEND THEY NEED THIS TIME TO DISMANTLE PRESENT

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FORTIFICATIONS AND BUILD NEW ONES.

3. GAMSAY SAID HE WANTED US TO BE AWARE OF EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON SEVERAL POTENTIAL STICKY POINTS:

A. MOST IMPORTANT IS THE MATTER OF PHASING AND TIMING OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN REDEPLOYMENT IN THE NORTHERN SECTIONS. EGYPTIANS HAVE PRESENTED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES. WHILE HE ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT THAT REDEPLOYMENT SHOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE END OF THE FIVE-MONTH PERIOD, GAMASY INDICATED EGYPT INSISTS ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE PHASED, SUCCESSIVE MOVEMENTS BY ALL PARTIES OR AT LEAST OF EGYPTIAN AND UNEF FORCES. IF THE ISRAELIS REMAIN ADAMANT IN OPPOSING THIS, THE AGREEMENT WILL RUN INTO TOUGH SLEDDING WITHIN EGYPT. IT WILL APPEAR AS IF NOTHING IS REALLY HAPPENING. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SUGGESTED THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT TAKE OVER A PART OF THE PRESENT UNEF ZONE WITH UNEF WITHDRAWING A SHORT DISTANCE AS ONE SUCH PHASE. THIS OUGHT TO BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER SUCCESSIVE PHASES AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES.

B. IN THE CASE OF THE OILFIELDS, GOE HAS SENT THE EGYPTIAN MANAGER OF ENI TO TALK ABOUT TAKE-OVER OF BELAYIM AREA OF ABU RUDAYS. ENI MANAGER HAD ON HIS OWN COME UP WITH IDEA OF A TRIPARTITE EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI/ITALIAN GROUP TO WORK OUT TAKE-OVER DETAILS. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO SUCH SEPARATE TRIPARTITE GROUP. INSTEAD, EGYPTIAN AND ITALIAN ENI REPS SHOULD COME UNDER EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. SIMILARLY, ISRAELI TECHNICIANS SHOULD COME UNDER ISRAELI DELEGATION.

C. ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS ARE ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH THE JOINTLY USED ROAD. ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS IS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE INSISTING THAT THEY MAINTAIN THE JOINTLY USED ROAD SECTION. GOE WILL NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO THIS. IT IS AN EGYPTIAN, GAMASY INSISTED, UNDER UN SUPERVISION WITH THE ISRAELIS HAVING JOINT USE RIGHTS.

WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE POINT, TOOK THE OCCASION TO REMIND GAMASY THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE UNRESTRICTED USE OF THE COMMON ROAD SECTIONS DURING THE PERIODS DESIGNATED FOR ISRAEL USE. GAMASY DID NOT DEMURE.

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D. EGYPTIANS HAVE SUGGESTED 3,000 MAN POLICE FORCE IN THE CORRIDOR AND ABU RODAYS OILFIELD REGIONS. ISRAELIS COUNTERED WITH 300 POLICE ARMED SOLELY WITH PISTOLS. THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL, GAMASY SAID, IS RIDICULOUS. OPERATING ON A DAILY BASIS OF THREE SHIFTS, THIS WOULD MEAN ONLY 100 POLICE TO COVER THE ENTIRE 180 KILOMETER LONG STRETCH AND THE SIX MAIN LOCATIONS IN THAT STRETCH. IF THOSE SICK AND ON LEAVE ARE DEDUCTED,

THE NUMBER WOULD BE EVEN LESS. THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONTROL SMUGGLING. MAGHDOUB HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A COUNTER-PROPOSAL OF 1,500 POLICE. THIS IS THE MINIMUM EGYPT CAN ACCEPT.

4. I SAID I THOUGHT THESE ISSUES COULD BE BEST HANDLED IN THE WORKING GROUP. GAMASY AGREED, BUT WANTED TO BRING THEM TO OUR ATTENTION NOW. ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO IMPRESS UPON ISRAELIS THE NEED TO BE MORE REASONABLE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WITHOUT THIS THERE IS DANGER THAT A DEADLOCK COULD DEVELOP IN SO MANY POINTS THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD ABORT.

5. DEPT MAY WISH PASS THIS MESSAGE TO GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS, CAT-C, MILITARY POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO09074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850081-2296, N750004-0313
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750955/aaaabwdd.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAMASY ON EGYPTIAN ARMY REACTION TO AGREEMENT AND GENEVA TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EG, IS, (GAMASY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006